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**B E D W E L L Y**



**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

**The Annual Reports of the**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**&**

**Chief Public Health Inspector**

---

**Year ended 31st December, 1969**



**BEDWELLY**



**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**The Annual Reports of the**

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# BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1969 - 1970

Chairman - Councillor J. Salway

Vice-Chairman - Councillor K. Meade

## MEMBERS

Councillor R. R. Bryant, M.M.	Councillor G. O. Higgins
" P. G. Bullen, D.F.C.	" E. G. Hodges
" E. J. Butler	" Mrs. R. James
" W. D. G. Cole	" M. E. E. Lloyd
" D. Davies	" G. C. Nelmes
" Mrs. E. Davies	" W. E. Park, B.A.
" G. A. Davies	" Mrs. M. R. Powell
" F. E. Evans	" G. H. Thomas
" G. C. Garrett, C.Eng., A.M.I.Min.E.	" J. D. Turner
" G. H. Hawker	" D. G. Werrett
Councillor Mrs. D. Williams	

## HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor J. Salway

Vice-Chairman - Councillor R. R. Bryant, M.M.

Councillor P. G. Bullen, D.F.C.	Councillor G. O. Higgins
" W. D. G. Cole	" E. G. Hodges
" D. Davies	" M. E. E. Lloyd
" Mrs. E. Davies	" K. Meade
" G. A. Davies	" G. C. Nelmes
" F. E. Evans	" G. H. Thomas
Councillor J. D. Turner	

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health .. .. .	Dr. A. Trenhaile, L.M.S.S.A. (London), D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector .. .. .	A. M. Coleman, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector .. .. .	E. J. Francis, M.A.P.H.I., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health and Shops Inspector (to 2.9.69.) ..	G. H. Gane, M.A.P.H.I., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health and Shops Inspector (from 29.9.69.)	R. Mitchard, M.A.P.H.I., (Dip. P.H.I.E.B.)
Student Public Health Inspector .. .. .	D. R. Watson
Rodent Operator and part-time Mortuary and Post Mortem Attendant .. .. .	G. Hart
Shorthand Typist/Clerk .. .. .	Miss C. A. Thomas

# SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1969

Area of District in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,353
Population (Census 1951)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,826
(Census 1961)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27,336
Estimated population for birth and death rates 1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,900
Number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,081
Number of persons per house	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.2
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£588,703
Product of penny rate 1968/69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,245
Number of live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	410
Crude birth rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.8
Number of illegitimate births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	329
Crude death rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.7
Number of deaths under one year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Infantile mortality, per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.5

BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
Aberbargoed,  
Bargoed,  
Glam.  
CF8 9UB.

1st September, 1970.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my duty to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1969 dealing with the sanitary circumstances, sanitary administration and vital statistics of the district.

The report is presented in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and on the lines indicated by Circular 5/70 (Wales) of the Health Department, Welsh Office.

Physical Features

The Bedwellty Urban District, which covers an area of 7,353 acres, is situated in the north west of Monmouthshire and occupies a hill ridge and parts of two valleys. The greatest length from north to south is six and a half miles and its maximum width from east to west is two and a half miles. It is bounded by the Rhymney River in the west and to the east by the Sirhowy River.

The altitude varies from 1,499 feet above sea level at Cefn Manmoel on the north east boundary to 400 feet above sea level on the southern boundary at Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lis. The altitude at the Municipal Offices is 718 feet above sea level.

General Statistics and Social Conditions

The Registrar General's estimate of the district population as at 30th June, 1969, was 25,900. The 1961 census figure was 27,336.

There have been no further closures of coal mines in the district but the need for new industry remains.

Estimated Populations (30th June, 1969) of Adjacent Urban Districts

Abercarn U.D.	18,690	Gelligaer U.D.	34,500
Abertillery U.D.	22,610	Mynyddislwyn U.D.	15,780
Bedwas and Machen U.D.	12,380	Rhymney U.D.	8,700
Ebbw Vale U.D.	26,470	Tredegar U.D.	18,920



VITAL STATISTICS - 1969

MOTHERS AND INFANTS

LIVE BIRTHS

Number of births registered during the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	410
	Males			Females					
Legitimate	202			182					
Illegitimate	<u>13</u>			<u>13</u>					
	<u>215</u>			<u>195</u>					
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.8
Illegitimate live births (percent of total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.3

STILLBIRTHS

Number of stillbirths registered during the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.8
TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS	..	..	..	..	..	..	417

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under one year)

Deaths of Infants	Males			Females		
	Total	Leg.	Illeg.	Total	Leg.	Illeg.
Under 1 year of age	4	4	-	4	4	-
Under 4 weeks of age	3	3	-	2	2	-
Under 1 week of age	2	2	-	2	2	-

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
---------------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---



INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .. .. .	19.5
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	20.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births) 12.2

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births) 9.8

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined  
per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 26.4

Comparative Rates - 1969

	Bedwellty U.D.	Administrative County of Monmouth	England and Wales
Infant mortality rate	19.5	20.7	18.0
Peri-natal mortality rate	26.4	27.3	23.0

Causes of Death of Infants Under One Year

Cause of Death	Number
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1
Pneumonia	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1
Congenital anomalies	1
Other causes of Peri-natal Mortality	1
Birth-injury and difficult labour etc.	3

# MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths .. .. . NIL

## DEATHS 1969

Number of deaths during year .. .. . 329

Death rate per 1,000 of population after correction of inward and outward transfers (crude rate) .. .. . 12.7

### Crude death rate for the previous years compared:-

1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
11.1	11.9	10.5	9.9	12.1	10.1	13.4	12.7

The local death rate is comparable with that for England and Wales if the local rate is multiplied by the Registrar General's comparability factor of 1.3.

### Comparative Death Rates (Adjusted) 1969

Bedwellty U.D.	Administrative County of Monmouth	England and Wales
16.5	14.0	11.9

60% of persons who died during the year had attained the age of 65 years and over, 35% were 75 years and over.

## CAUSES OF DEATH 1969

CAUSE	MALES	FEMALES
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-
Other Tuberculosis, including late effects	1	-
Cancer (Oesophagus)	1	1
Cancer (Stomach)	2	4
Cancer (Intestine)	3	4
Cancer (Lung, Bronchus)	9	4
Cancer (Breast)	-	3
Cancer (Uterus)	-	6
Cancer (Prostate)	2	-
Leukaemia	2	1
Cancer (Other Sites)	13	5
Diabetes Mellitus	-	4
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	1
Hypertensive Disease	2	5
Ischaemic Heart Disease	51	26
Other forms of Heart Disease	11	12
Cerebrovascular Disease	19	21
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	7
Influenza	3	1
Pneumonia	6	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema	27	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	14	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Appendicitis	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	2
Other diseases of digestive system	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	4	2
Congenital anomalies	2	-
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	2	1
Other causes of peri-natal mortality	-	1
All other accidents	3	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1
All other external causes	1	1
TOTALS	190	139

Heart and circulatory diseases accounted for 49% of all deaths, cancer for about 18% and respiratory diseases for 20%.

## DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year there were no deaths from any notifiable disease, except from Tuberculosis.

### NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Males	Females
Measles	112	132
Dysentery	4	1
Infective Hepatitis	-	1
Total	116	134

### COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1960	28	3
1961	12	2
1962	5	3
1963	13	1
1964	8	3
1965	7	Nil
1966	8	1
1967	4	3
1968	6	1
1969	2	1

### CHEST RADIOLOGY

No chest radiological facilities are available in the district, the nearest being at Caerphilly and Tredegar.

There were no mass radiography surveys undertaken in the district during the year.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The quality of the water supply in the Rhymney Valley improved during the year following extensive work by the Taf Fechan Water Board.

Chemical analysis of water samples showed very little or no plumbo-solvency and the fluoride content was negligible.

### RAINFALL DURING 1969

	Inches
January	7.64
February	4.21
March	2.49
April	2.78
May	5.45
June	3.26
July	2.24
August	4.00
September	2.73
October	1.00
November	5.01
December	5.05

Total rainfall for 1969 = 45.86 inches.

I wish to express my thanks to the staff of the Public Health Department for their efforts and support during the year and also to thank members of the council and officers and staff of other departments for their co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

A. TRENHAILE

Medical Officer of Health.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Telephone: Bargoed 2361/7

Public Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
Aberbargoed,  
Bargoed,  
Glam.  
CF8 9UB.

1st September, 1970.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work done in the Public Health  
Department during 1969.

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HOUSING

Repair of privately owned houses

There was an increased number of complaints received from householders regarding defects of repair at their houses. All such enquiries were investigated and, where necessary, notices were served on owners requiring execution of works. In many cases, informal action resulted in the effecting of repairs.

Number of complaints received (including housing and other  
nuisances) .. .. . 226

Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action .. 48

Number of houses repaired as a result of formal action under  
the Public Health Act 1936 .. .. . 102

Slum Clearance

A clearance area was confirmed in respect of Island Street, Argoed, (21 houses) and a compulsory purchase order made.

A clearance area of five houses at Rock Terrace, Blackwood, was declared and a Public Enquiry held. The result of this enquiry is awaited.



The following individually unfit houses were represented as unfit and incapable of being repaired at a reasonable expense:-

19 Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lis;  
2 Rose Cottages, Rock, Blackwood;  
1 Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog;  
10 Gellihaf Road, Fleur-de-lis;  
43 Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog.

The following houses were made subject to Demolition or Closing Orders after representation:-

9 Argoed Buildings, Rock, Blackwood;  
2 Tynewydd Cottages, Bedwellty;  
Hafondrisclawdd Fach, Manmoel;  
56 Commercial Street, Aberbargoed (C.O.);  
19 Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lis;  
2 Rose Cottages, Rock, Blackwood (C.O.);  
Rock Fach, Argoed.

#### Improvement of Houses

Standard and Improvement Grant enquiries and applications to 31st December, 1969, totalled 665. During 1969, 52 applications were received (45 being for Standard Grant amenities). This figure is similar to that of each of the previous two years.

The details of the Standard Grants for 1969 were:-

Number of applications received:	45
Number of applications approved:	39
Number of applications paid:	23
Provision of bath:	19
Provision of wash-hand basin:	21
Provision of hot water supply:	21
Provision of internal W.C.:	22
Provision of foodstore:	14

Total number of houses improved by the above installations: 23  
Grants amounted to £4,466. 3. 7d.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

No licence is in force in the area.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in the area.



### COUNCIL HOUSES

The apartments of all prospective tenants for council houses are visited by the department to ascertain standard of cleanliness. Where the standard is unsatisfactory, the applications are deferred for further inspection after a period. Such action is only very occasionally necessary but, on eventual housing of such tenants, follow-up inspections are made to encourage improvement.

Number of prospective tenants visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Number of transfers and exchanges visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Number of vacant council houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42

Some routine inspection of council houses is also carried out in pursuance of duties under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts as is also required for privately-owned premises.

I am informed by the Housing Manager that at 31st December, 1969, there were 214 applications for council houses from families living in apartments. This figure does not include applicants who are sole tenants but who wish to have bungalow or other council accommodation.

### PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

These services are provided by the council. Cleaning and maintenance is carried out by Mr. G. Hart.

### RODENT CONTROL

Over 330 complaints of rat or mouse infestation were dealt with by the rodent operator.

In addition, over 1,000 sewer manholes were treated on at least two occasions during the year - June and October. Casual labour was employed to assist the rodent operator when manholes were baited. The number of 'takes' of poison remains about the same each year (50).

The banks of the two rivers were surveyed and council refuse tips were inspected regularly.

### BEDWELLTY SWIMMING BATHS

Check samples were taken by the Public Health Department for chlorine content and acidity of the water at frequent intervals. This is in addition to sampling carried out daily by the Baths Manager.

Bacteriological samples were taken on 10 occasions (21 samples). These were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

Over the year, satisfactory results have been obtained.

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The area is served by two trunk sewers with sea outfall. The village of Manmoel is served by a septic tank and biological filter.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 50

The above section of the National Assistance Act imposes a duty on the local authority "to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or has been found dead in their area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the authority".

For this purpose the council have a contract with Mr. Herbert Jones, Undertaker, Blackwood, (telephone number Blackwood 2365). The contract also includes the removal of the body of a person found dead on the public highway or in any public place.

It was not necessary to proceed under this section during 1969.

## HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

WARD	LADIES	GENTLEMEN
New Tredegar	3	1
Aberbargoed	3	2
Fengam and Fleur-de-lis	1	2
Cefn Fforest	3	1
Blackwood	10	3
Argoed, Markham and Hollybush	2	1

## WATER SUPPLY

Bacteriological sampling of public water supplies was carried out at approximately fortnightly intervals. The samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

119 samples were taken and the results were satisfactory in all but a few cases.

## NOISE ABATEMENT

Several sources of noise nuisance were investigated, including tractors on tips, pneumatic road breakers, launderette machinery and 'pop music' groups.

The Monmouthshire County Council have agreed to loan noise measuring equipment to the various district councils on request. This includes the Dawes type Octave Band Sound-level Meter. A nominal charge of £1 is made for the use of the equipment. The council participate in this scheme.

The public health inspectors have attended courses on sound and vibration held at the University of Wales and the University of Southampton.

## FACTORIES ACT 1961

### PART I OF THE ACT

#### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	28	30	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals	29	31	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	0	1	0

PART VIII OF THE ACT

There are no outworkers operating in the area.

A. Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	49	7
Retail Shops	2	108	52
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	-
Catering establishments opening to the public, canteens	1	12	-
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
Totals	4	170	59

B. Notices served during 1969

Contravention	No. of Notices
Storage on stairways	1
Insufficiency of heating	1
Insufficiency of washing facilities	2
Unsuitability of sanitary accommodation	2
Dangerous machinery	1
Thermometer	2

C. Inspections

100% inspection of all registered premises has now been completed and a large number of further visits have been made. There were very few contraventions under the Act and, where they did exist, conditions were rectified.



#### D. Accidents

Accidents occurring in shops and offices are to be reported by employers to the authority. Investigations are made to ascertain the causes and reports sent to the Department of Employment and Productivity. Nine accidents were reported and investigated. It was not necessary to take further legal action.

The accidents were:-

Struck against object:	2
Strains from lifting:	1
Falls on stairs:	2
Falls on level:	2
Cuts with knives (both butchers):	2

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily readings were continued at the Municipal Offices, Aberbargoed, and the volumetric apparatus recorded smoke concentration and sulphur dioxide.

Below is a table of results to nearest whole numbers of average daily concentrations during each month. The measurement units are microgrammes per cubic metre of air.

Month	Smoke Concentration	Sulphur Dioxide Content
January	59	67
February	61	65
March	79	83
April	38	44
May	35	40
June	24	37
July	35	57
August	21	28
September	41	43
October	44	55
November	47	54
December	47	54

Offences under the Clean Air Act 1968, which prohibits the emission of dark smoke from any trade or industrial premises, have been dealt with informally but, in the case of some premises, it is anticipated that legal action will be taken eventually, particularly in respect of scrap metal dealers' yards.

## FOOD SUPERVISION

### (a) Meat Inspection

There is no abattoir in the area. During leave absence, assistance was given to the Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council in meat inspection at the Maesycwmmmer Abattoir.

### (b) Condemned Food

The amount of foodstuffs condemned has risen sharply during the year. This has been due in part to the increased food turnover at larger shops and supermarkets and to the breakdown on several occasions of refrigerator units.

The amount condemned was  $4\frac{1}{4}$  tons. This was disposed of under supervision at the refuse tips.

### (c) Food Poisoning

There was no case of food poisoning for the fourth year in succession.

### (d) Public Houses and Clubs

Number of licensed premises: 46

Number of inspections made: 76

At a number of premises, Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 infringements were noted and duly referred to the proprietors.

These infringements related in the main to items of redecoration and sanitary accommodation. They received attention in each case.

### (e) Ice Cream

Five premises produce 'cold mix' and one produces heat-treated ice cream. Regular inspections are made at premises. 17 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Whilst the results were satisfactory overall, one vendor had two samples which were not up to standard but follow-up measures resulted in improvement in the supply.

### (f) Milk Sampling

Occasional samples were taken for keeping quality. The twelve samples taken were satisfactory.

### (g) Other Food Premises

Routine inspections were carried out at the various food premises and action wherever necessary was taken.

The following is a list of premises which receive attention:-



School Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	17
Restaurants/cafes	..	..	..	..	..	8
Factory canteens	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pithead canteens	..	..	..	..	..	2
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	22
Fried fish shops	..	..	..	..	..	10

(h) Food and Drugs Sampling

I am obliged to Mr. R. J. Bullen, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Monmouthshire County Council, for the following report:-

"Samples taken: 46 milk; 48 other foods; 4 intoxicating liquor.

All but three of the above samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine:-

1. Complaint - Bottle of milk contained foreign matter

Public Analyst reported the bottle was not clean and this is an infringement of the Milk and Dairies (General Hygiene) Regulations. This matter was passed to the Public Health Department in whose area the milk was bottled for action by them.

2. Complaint - Bread contained oily dough

Bakers cautioned.

3. Complaint - Bread contained dirty oily dough

Bakers fined £20; costs £10. 10. Od."

I wish to express my thanks to the members and officers of the council for their assistance during the year.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. COLEMAN

Chief Public Health Inspector.





# BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---



With the Compliments of the  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
and the  
Medical Officer of Health

MUNICIPAL OFFICES  
ABERBARGOED  
BARGOED, Glam.